before a journey, or when. long aid painful earthly separation
has to be borne, we could hardly bring ourselves to say
" farewell/' or even " goodnight," were it not for the strong
hope within us that the parting is only for a time and before
many hours, or days or months, or years are passed, we
shall be united to those we love. It is just that hope that
saves us from a torment too great to bear. So with the
bitter pains of separation by death, it is sometimes the
only consolation left that in some new, some utterly unimagin-
ed life beyond the grave we earnestly hope and expect to
meet again in wonder, love and praise. The very failure of
our best endeavours here, the cruel disappointments of our
life and love, the unfinished work, the unsolved problems,
the unrighted wrongs of this lower life, all tend to strengthen,
the very foundations of that hope for a life to come and
bring it to the verge of a certain conviction. The more we
need God here on earth to help us to be good, the more
certainly we trust that in another world, He will fulfil and '
over-pass our highest desires and when we wake up after His
likeness, we shall be satisfied therewith.

Again the moment we admit the obvious

spiritual nature
which, as men, we inherit and possess and
transmit—in the
sublime functions of intellect, in the solemn
warnings and
sanctions of conscience and in the exquisite
indulgence of
pure love—we not only see clearly a world of
life aid activity
high aid far out of reach of the laboratory or
the charnel-
house of Nature, but perceive likewise with
the eye of faith,
most na^or-a^le fa'th—that One, infinitely
higher and
holier aid more loving thai the best anongst
us all, lives
and rules over the chaos of material things,
lives and creates,
preserves, blesses, blights, aid dissolves
according to His
good pleasure : lives aid rules so that what
seemed to us
only chaos is no longer chaos but is order aid
progress and
full of gracious aid high promise for every
unsatisfied or